

So I think that is exactly what we will be able to do. We are making progress.

My colleague mentioned the fact of the cow business in Japan. Well, that is a problem. Frankly, it is not a trade problem as much as it is a mad cow disease problem. It has been handled wrong, and we are working toward getting that resolved. Our best potential and the largest growth we have in the beef industry and exports has been in Asia. That is where we are now. We have been able to open up the markets in Australia and in South Korea, and we had the markets pretty much open in Japan until the mad cow disease came along, and now we are in the process, hopefully, of getting them open again. So that is very important, and we need to continue certainly to do that.

We need a strong leader to represent our interests. I think that is exactly what we will get with Susan Schwab, and that leadership is what we need. Bob Portman has done a very good job, and she has worked with him, of course, in getting us into this position. So we need to have good leadership to walk away from some of the bad agreements, the tough agreements that we have had. The world is sometimes difficult to deal with, but Susan Schwab will provide that leadership.

During her testimony before the Finance Committee, of which I am a member, she stated:

It will take more than a willing spirit to forge good trade policy in the next 5 years. It will require us to keep the multilateral process on track in the WTO, to negotiate commercially significant free trade agreements, and to enforce vigorously the terms of those agreements and to uphold the rules of trade.

So that is what we are really faced with. These smaller countries, these countries that frankly generally have less economic strength than we do and they always want special treatment: Well, you guys can afford that. What we need is fair trade, and that is what trade is all about, and that is why it takes a leader to do that. So I am very pleased that she is there and that she is willing to do this. She is well trained to do it.

She further stated that her success may require:

An honest, sometimes blunt, but always respectful exchange of views, along with a willingness to compromise when possible and the strength to stand firm when necessary.

The strength to stand firm when necessary. To me, that is probably the most important element of the trade negotiations that we enter into, is to be able to stand firm on what we agree on, and we ought to be in a position to do that when we are as big a buyer as we are. We also need to have some muscle on the other side, and we can do that.

I am pleased with the commitment she has made to reach out and listen and consult with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Engaging Congress in a bipartisan way upfront

and throughout the process will be crucial, and she will do that. Ms. Schwab understands this, and I am confident that she will follow through.

So I look forward to working with her. I am looking forward to one of the important elements of our economy, and that is world trade, and doing it in a fair manner.

Mr. President, I yield back all time on behalf of Republicans and Democrats and ask for a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Susan C. Schwab, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A VICTORY IN THE WAR ON TERROR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier today, we witnessed an important victory in the war on terror and in the continued march of freedom and democracy in Iraq.

Al-Zarqawi, like Saddam Hussein, was a mass murderer. I am not sad to say that he has made his last video.

I could not be more proud of our men and women in uniform—our military and intelligence services and those individuals who participated in this particular operation. Our intelligence and military forces have demonstrated their exceptional abilities and reminded us yet again that, through patience and resolve, we will continue to win the war on terror and advance the cause of freedom around the globe.

So I want to say to our military forces and our intelligence community serving all around the world that we support you, we are proud of you, and we know that you will continue to keep up the good work.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, last night the U.S. military, as we know now, working hand in hand with the Iraqi counterpart, located and killed al-Qaida terrorist Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi. We know who this terrorist is. He is a brutal terrorist who has repeatedly encouraged violence against Americans and Iraqi citizens.

Al-Zarqawi is credited with ordering kidnappings, beheadings, and killings

of innocent civilians with insurgent attacks. Al-Zarqawi was the operational mastermind of the al-Qaida network in Iraq. He sought to destroy America and our coalition partners to create a sanctuary for the al-Qaida organization in the Middle East. His death marks the fragmentation of al-Qaida's primary leadership and the silencing of a ruthless terrorist.

The military operation against al-Zarqawi was performed by our dedicated, professional Armed Forces in concert with our coalition partner. Our military servicemembers should be commended for their remarkable efforts in eradicating the enemy of a free and democratic Iraq.

Our war fighters worked tirelessly with our Iraqi counterparts tracking the movement of al-Zarqawi's followers, leading to his demise in last night's airstrike.

We are proud of the success of this operation, but even prouder of the job that our Armed Forces have accomplished in their commitment to peace and stability in Iraq. Although this is positive development and significant step in the global war on terror, our fight in Iraq is far from over. We are making significant strides toward eradicating terrorism, developing a free government, and reviving the economy. But Iraq will not become a democracy overnight. While our involvement continues to be difficult, our resolve must remain strong. We must remain focused on our fundamental goal—preserving the freedom and security of the United States. This is an enormous challenge that will take determination, global cooperation, and fortitude to succeed. I am confident the United States will triumph over global chaos and tyranny, as it always has. But whatever it is, we must back our troops.

RECIPIENTS OF THE "HEROES AMONG US" AWARD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all of us in New England are proud of the Boston Celtics and their skill on the basketball court. We're also proud of the support they give to those who need help in our communities. Each year, the Celtics organization honors outstanding persons in New England as "Heroes Among Us"—men and women who make an especially significant impact on the lives of others.

The award is now in its ninth year, and the extraordinary achievements of the honorees this year include saving lives, sacrificing for others, overcoming obstacles to achieve goals, and making lifelong commitments to improve the lives of those around them. The honorees include persons of all ages and all walks of life—students, community leaders, founders of non-profit organizations, members of the clergy, and many others.